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What is claimed is:
CLAIMS

1. Use of ellagic acid, its salts, its metal complexes or its mono- or polyether or mono- or polyacylated derivatives as a cosmetic agent for improving the cohesion between the dermis and the epidermis, said agent being incorporated into a cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.
2. Use of ellagic acid, its salts, its metal complexes or its mono- or polyether or mono- or polyacylated derivatives as a cosmetic agent for increasing the proportion of collagen VII, said agent being incorporated into a cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable vehicle.
3. Use according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said composition is intended for toning up the skin, preventing or delaying the appearance of signs of skin ageing, and delaying the appearance of wrinkles or reducing their depth.
4. Use according to claim 3, characterized in that the skin ageing is actinic ageing due in particular to the action of solar radiation.
5. Use according to claim 2, characterized in that said composition is a hair composition for improving hair condition.
6. Use of ellagic acid, its salts, its metal complexes or its mono- or polyether or mono- or polyacylated derivatives for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, especially dermatological composition, for treating pathological conditions associated with a deficiency in the cohesion between the dermis and the epidermis, particularly conditions associated with a weakening of the dermal-epidermal junction.
7. Use of ellagic acid, its salts, its metal complexes or its mono- or polyether or mono- or polyacylated derivatives for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, especially dermatological composition, for treating manifestations or pathological conditions associated with an insufficiency of collagen VII.
8. Use according to claim 6, characterized in that said composition is intended for treating epidermolysis bullosa.
9. Use according to one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the ellagic acid salts include metal salts, particularly those of alkali metals or alkaline earth metals such as sodium and calcium, amine salts such as those of methylglutamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, choline and bis-triethylamine, and amino acid salts, especially those of basic amino acids such as arginine, lysine and ornithine, the metal complexes of ellagic acid include those with zinc and copper, the mono-

or polyacylated derivatives comprise saturated or unsaturated acyl groups having from 2 to 22 carbon atoms, these acyl groups preferably corresponding to acetic, palmitic, oleic, linoleic, linolenic, arachidonic, stearic, brassidic, erucic, behenic and (all Z)-5,8,11,14,17-eicosapentaenoic acids, and the above-mentioned mono- or polyether derivatives are derivatives of alkoxy comprising from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, or condensation derivatives of one or more of the hydroxyl groups of ellagic acid with a sugar or a chain of sugars, particularly 3-methoxyellagic acid or its mono- or polyether derivatives with sugars such as glucose, arabinose, rhamnose and galactose.

10 10. Use according to one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that said composition contains from 0.0001% to 5% by weight, preferably between 0.01% and 1% by weight, of ellagic acid, its salts, its metal complexes or its mono- or polyether or mono- or polyacylated derivatives, based on the total weight of the composition.

15 11. Use according to one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that said composition also contains at least one substance which favors the synthesis of the constituents of the extracellular matrix of the skin and/or regulates the formation of a good-quality corneal layer.

20 12. Use according to claim 11, characterized in that said substance is selected from the group consisting of vitamins, particularly vitamins of groups A and C, and their derivatives such as esters, tocopherols, xanthines, particularly caffeine or theophylline, retinoids, particularly vitamin A acid, extracts of *Centella asiatica*, asiatic and madecassic acids and their glycosylated derivatives such as asiaticoside or madecassoside, extracts of *Siegesbeckia orientalis*, extracts of *Commiphora mukul* and extracts of *Eriobotrya japonica*, and mineral elements.

25 13. Use according to claim 12, characterized in that the above-mentioned mineral elements are selected from magnesium, manganese, silicon and zinc, these mineral elements advantageously being used in the form of the chloride in the case of magnesium and manganese, in the form of silanol in the case of silicon and in the form of aspartate in the case of magnesium.

30 14. Use according to one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that said composition also contains at least one substance selected from the group consisting of aliphatic C₃-C₁₂ alpha-hydroxy acids, particularly citric acid, malic acid and lactic acid, amino acids, particularly arginine, citrulline and threonine, ceramides, glycosceramides, phospholipids, slimming agents, particularly forskolin, extracts of

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Coleus, extracts of Tephrosia, agents for combating stretch marks, particularly extracts of horse-chestnut and escin, agents for protecting or improving the microcirculation, particularly the bioflavonoids of Ginkgo biloba, and sun filters, particularly titanium oxides, acyl methoxycinnamate and filters of vegetable origin.

- 5 15. Use according to one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that said composition also contains at least one other active principle selected from the group consisting of antidandruff agents such as extracts of *Arctium lappa*, chloroxylenol, resorcinol or zinc pyrithione, antiseborrhea agents such as a 5 α -reductase inhibitor, particularly an extract of *Pygeum africanum*, and agents for
10 stimulating the blood microcirculation, such as cepharanthine and methyl nicotinate.

16. Method of cosmetic treatment for improving the cohesion between the dermis and the epidermis, particularly by reinforcing the dermal-epidermal junction, for toning up the skin, for preventing or delaying the appearance of signs
15 of skin ageing, for delaying the appearance of wrinkles or reducing their depth, and for improving hair condition, characterized in that it consists in delivering a cosmetically effective amount of ellagic acid, its salts, its metal complexes or its mono- or polyether or mono- or polyacylated derivatives, optionally contained in a composition comprising a cosmetically acceptable excipient, particularly in a form
20 as defined in one of claims 9 to 15.

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